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Constitution and By-Laws

SUB-DISTRICT NO. 6 OF DISTRICT NO. 12

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

BELLEVILLE SUB-DISTRICT

Article 1.—Name.

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Belleville Sub-District, and shall be composed of all Local Unions in the Sixth Inspection District, including Staunton, Worden, Mt. Olive, Gillespie, Hornsby, Coffeen, Tilden, Livingston, Benld and DeCamp.

Section 2. This Sub-District shall have jurisdiction over all Local Unions, which shall be governed in all matters by this Sub-District Constitution.

Article 2.—Officers and Their Duties.

Section 1. The elective officers of this District shall be one Sub-District President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, a Sub-District Board to be selected one from each Distrist, subdivided as follows:

No. 1—Sandoval, Odin, Centralia, Kimmundy and Salem.

No. 2—Breese, Trenton, O'Fallon Ridge Prairie, Lebanon, New Baden, Germantown, Shiloh and Beckemeyer.

No. 3—Collinsville, Caseyville, Troy, Maryville, Donkville, French Village and Pocahontas.

No. 4—Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Sorento, Coffeen and Panama.

No. 5—Mt. Olive, Staunton, Worden, New Douglas, Hornsby, Gillespie, Benld, Livingston and DeCamp.

No. 6—Marissa, Tilden, Freeburg, Wilderman, Lenzburg and New Athens.

No. 7—Belleville, Dutch Hollow, Rock Road, Mascoutah, Briar Hill and Rentchler.

President and Vice-president and Secretary-Treasurer, to be the members of the Board, and one Auditing Committee composed of three members of this Sub-District, and the Sub-District officers shall be elected for one year on the second Tuesday in December.

Article 3.—Nomination and Election of Officers.

Section 1. Election of Members of the Executive Board.—Members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the popular vote of each sub-division in which they reside. The President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, seven Members of the Executive Board, and three Auditors, shall be elected as follows:

Ninety days prior to the annual election the Secretary shall send out nomination blanks to all Locals of the Sub-District; the respective Locals shall fill out in their respective places, the names of the candidates of their choice for above named positions.

Sixty days prior to the date set for the election, the Secretary shall notify all candidates of their nomination, and get their written consent of their candidacy for the respective places, as indicated by said nomination. No nominee will be considered without such written consent.

Thirty days prior to the election, the Secretary shall send to all Locals in good standing a returning sheet and a sufficient number of ballots for members of all Local Unions, bearing the names of all certified nominees, and it shall be the duty of all Locals to provide their members with ballots; said members shall fill out their ballots and deposit with a Board of Tellers appointed by the said Local, who shall canvass said ballots and report on returning sheets. Said returns to be in the hands of the Sub-District Secretary six days prior to the date set for the convention. The returning sheets shall be sent in special envelopes, sealed and marked "Election Returns," addressed to the Sub-District Secretary.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Auditors to canvass said votes and report the returns to the Sub-District Convention on returning sheets prepared for the purpose. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to the respective places above mentioned.

In case of a tie vote, the same shall be settled by the Convention then assembled. Delegates casting by ballot the number of votes on which their Local pays per capita; said vote to be determined by the number of members in their respective Locals one month prior to the Convention.

Thirty days prior to nomination, all officers of this Sub-District, who are not candidates for re-election shall notify the Secretary, and he shall immediately notify all Local Unions in the Sub-District of the same.

Section 2. All Locals shall notify all their

members of an election one week prior to holding said election of officers. And any member failing to attend such election without reasonable excuse after being duly notified, shall be fined one dollar; said fine to be collected in the usual way. The Local Secretary shall record the vote on the returning sheet as they are cast opposite the names of candidates for which said vote or votes are cast, and no member shall be allowed to cast more than one vote for any one officer. The returning sheets, after the election, before being destroyed by the Secretary, shall be kept for six months.

Section 3. Elective and executive officers for this Sub-District shall be entitled to advisory voice in the Convention of this Sub-District, but shall have no vote unless they are elected "representatives."

Section 4. The Sub-District President shall preside at all Conventions of this Sub-District; enforce all laws thereof at any and all times; act as chairman of the Sub-District Board; have general superintendence of the Sub-District; appoint Committees on Law, comprising not more than five members, against whom no contest appears; fill all vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise until an election can be held; he shall sign all official documents when satisfied of their correctness; suspend or remove any officer for insubordinadion, for just and sufficient cause with the consent of the Executive Board; he shall devote all his time and attention to the interest of the Sub-District organization, and exercise general supervision of its working, either in the field or in the Sub-

District office, as his judgement dictates, or the exigencies of the same may require.

Section 5. The Vice-President shall visit all Local Unions in this Sub-District at least once every three months, and see that the Constitution and Agreement is lived up to. And shall perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the President, and shall succeed that officer in case of sickness, death or removal.

Section 6. In addition to the actual expenses, President and Vice-President shall receive for services such compensation as may be fixed when elected; the same to be paid semi-monthly.

Section 7. The Sub-District Secretary-Treasurer shall have charge of and preserve all books, documents and effects of the Sub-District office; shall record proceedings of all Conventions and of the Executive Board, and shall keep copies of important letters sent out by him; he shall receive and receipt for all moneys, pay all current expenses; he shall prepare and submit to the Locals a quarterly report of all moneys received and disbursed, and perform other duties as may be assigned him; he shall give a bond of Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00) for the safe-keeping of all moneys entrusted to him, but shall not have more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) subject to his order; all other funds must be deposited by him subject to the order of the Executive Board; for his services and in addition to his actual expenses when on duty, he shall receive in semi-monthly payments such compensation as may be fixed when elected.

Section 8. The Sub-District Executive Board shall act as Trustees of the Sub-District. The Board shall hold sessions at such places as it deems most convenient and economical at the call of the Sub-District President, and should trouble arise between members of any Local and their employers, a Board Member, when called upon by the Sub-District President shall proceed at once to the place of trouble and adjust differences if possible; at the time notify in return the Sub-District Secretary of the result accomplished, and for such services rendered, this Sub-District shall pay Three Dollars and Fifty Cents ($3.50) per day and expenses to the Board Member when authorized by the President to do such work.

Section 9. The Auditing Committee shall meet quarterly; they shall carefully inspect and audit the books and accounts pertaining to the Secretary-Treasurer office, and shall make a circular report of their findings to all Locals of this Sub-District. They shall meet two days prior to the annual Convention, and make their report for ratification prior to the election of officers.

Article 4.—Conventions and Representation.

Section 1. The Sub-District Convention shall be held annually on the third Tuesday of the month of March. Special Conventions shall be called by the Sub-District officers. When a Convention is called, be it special or annual, the Secretary shall notify each Local Union in the Sub-District entitled to representation of time and place of the meeting, and the object thereof, at least ten days previous to the date of meeting.

Section 2. Each Local Union shall be entitled to one representative for the first fifty members in good standing or less, and one for each fifty additional members or majority fraction thereof; Local Unions not in good standing in the list shall not be entitled to representation. Representatives shall have one vote for each fifty members or less and an aditional vote for each fifty members or fractional majority thereof, but no representative shall have more than five votes, and no person shall be eligible as representative who is not a miner or mine laborer actually employed, or a representative of the organization and is a bona-fide member of a local union in the Sub-District for at least three months prior to his election.

Section 3. No Local Union shall be entitled to representation that is in arrears for dues, assessments and per capita tax for two months preceding the month in which the Sub-District Convention is held, or who has not in every particular complied with the Sub-District, State and National Constitutions. The Secretary-Treasurer shall furnish all Local Unions of this Sub-District entitled to representation with blank credentials at the time of sending notifications of meeting. Representatives without proper credentials shall not be seated in any Convention of this Sub-District.

Article 5.—Revenue.

Section 1. The revenue of this District shall be derived from the Local Unions of this Sub-District, viz.: Five cents per member, which shall be paid directly to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Sub-District on or before the

first of each month. Said money shall be used for to pay the officers and other necessary expenses of this Sub-District. Fractional members shall pay in proportion.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the check-weighman at the various mines to keep a record of all fines for dirty coal, same to be forwarded to the Sub-District Secretary-Treasurer on or before the fifth (5th) of each month. Any check-weighman failing to comply with this section shall be fined the sum of Five Dollars ($5.00) for the first offense, and deposed from office for any subsequent offense.

Article 6 —Call for the Annual Convention.

Section 1. The Sub-District Secretary-Treasurer shall issue a call for the annual Convention six weeks prior to the date of the Convention, and shall furnish printed credentials, with duplicate, to each Local, and all Locals shall place the names of all delegates on the same credential, properly signed and sealed, and the duplicate shall be sent to the Sub-District office six days prior to the date of the Convention.

Article 7.—Membership.

Section 1. The membership of this Union shall consist of all miners and mine laborers and other workmen, skilled and unskilled, working in or around the mine, who perform labor for which a scale of wages is made, and shall pay such initiation fee and work under such conditions as is prescribed in the State Constitution.

Section 2. No Local of this Sub-District shall initiate for membership any person who

has not been given a job of employment at a mine working under the jurisdiction of that Local or when available members of the organizetion are at hand. Any Local violating the above section shall be fined Twenty-Five Dollars ($25), said fine to be turned over to the Sub-District Secretary-Treasurer.

Cards.

Section 3. No person, member of this organization, who holds a due or transfer card showing him to be a member in good standing, shall be debarred or hindered from obtaining work on account of race, color, creed or nationality. Any Local Union, or any mine, violating this Section, shall be fined Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00), and said fine so collected shall be paid to the "Widows' and Orphans' Fund."

Section 4. No Local Union shall admit a member of another Local Union without a transfer card, showing him to be in good standing with the Local from which he received the transfer card.

Section 5. The fifteenth of each month or the first working day thereafter, shall be known throughout the Sub-District as card day, and on this day Pit Committees shall exact working cards from all men employed at any mine in this Sub-District, and any member presenting a card showing himself six weeks in arrears, or not having paid his assessment shall not be entitled to a turn at the mine, or shall any such man enter the mine; provided, this Section does not apply where the check-off system is in vogue.

Local Secretarties.

Section 6. The Secretary of every Local Union, when sending per capita tax to the Sub-District Secretary-Treasurer, shall notify him of all members in good standing, how many days the mine or mines have worked during the month, the amount of tax sent to the State and National, and assessments. The Secretary-Treasurer shall furnish blanks to every Local Union, so the Local Secretary can fill same with information required under this Section, and report to the Sub-District Secretary any part of the Mining Laws which may be violated at any of the mines.

Article 8.—Duties of Members.

Section 1. Any member leaving the United Mine Workers of America for other vocations in life, must pay to the Local seventy-five cents per month and all national assessments, in order to retain his membership in said organization. Any member becoming in arrears six weeks shall be denied the privilege of a turn at the mine, nor shall any such member enter the mine. A member three months in arrears must make application as a new member.

Article 9.—Pass-Word.

Section 1. Any member charged with having abused the use of our pass-word, or in any way divulge the action of his or any other Local, contrary to the Constitution, if proven guilty, shall for the first offense be fined Five Dollars ($5.00), for the second offense Ten Dollars ($10.00), and for the third offense be expelled.

Article 10.—Duties of Sub-District Secretary.

Section 1. (Par. a). It shall be the duty

of the Secretary-Treasurer, when visiting Local Unions, to examine the books of said Locals, so he can inform himself if such Local has complied with the Constitution regarding payment of per capita tax or not.

(Par. b.) And every Local Union shall pay the sum of five cents per month per member as per capita tax, and forward same to Secretary-Treasurer of this Sub-District. Said five cents shall be paid on every member in good standing.

Article 11.—Officers' Salaries.

Section 1. The President shall receive the sum of $90.00 per month in semi-monthly payments.

The Vice-President shall receive the sum of $90.00 per month in semi-monthly payments.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive the sum of $90.00 per month in semi-monthly payments.

Article 12.—Conventions.

Section 1. The Sub-District President shall call a Convention at the request of five Locals with a membership of fifteen hundred members or more.

Article 13.—Miscellaneous.

Section 1. No miner shall be permitted to work at the face on idle days to make coal ready, and shall only be permitted to do work with the permission of the Mine Committee, same to be in urgent cases. All the miners shall be out of the mine within one-half hour after the quitting time, and within one hour after the mine quits on a fractional part of a day. Day hands may do work on idle days, but all day work to be equally divided among

the day hands. A day laborer soliciting work on idle days, shall only receive the scale of wages adopted for said class of work. The company soliciting a day man for any class of work other than the regular work for which he was employed, shall pay him the scale of wages governing his regular employment.

Section 2. Local Unions, individual members and all other persons are hereby prohibited from using the name of the organization for the purpose of furthering the interests of any political party, or an aspirant for any political office, or for any other purpose.

Section 3. Local Unions, when electing officers or changing officers in the Locals, shall notify the Sub-District office within five days after such changes are made. All Local officers and committees shall be elected the last meeting in June of each year by a majority vote of the members present and shall serve one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 4. No member shall exact or accept any compensation in any form from any one that he takes into the mine to work with him.

Section 5. No Local Union shall in any way deprive a member on account of his absence from being eligible as a delegate to any Convention when he is on duty serving the Local.

Section 6. Members holding stock in mining companies shall be silent members on questions concerning the agreement on scale of wages, and cannot serve on the Mine Committee. Any member engaged in the sale of

intoxicating liquor shall sever his connection with the U. M. W. of A.

Section 7. Any member or members of the organization creating a condition which prevents the carrying out of the Joint Agreement in any locality or mine, shall, after a fair and impartial hearing, if found guilty, be fined Ten Dollars ($10.00) each for such an offense and, refusing to pay the same, shall be expelled; said fines to be paid over to the State Treasurer.

Section 8. Any Local failing to carry out the provisions of the Sub-District Constitution, or failing to discipline its members under the various provisions thereof, shall be subject, upon conviction by the Sub-District Executive Board, to pay a fine of Ten Dollars ($10.00) to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Sub-District.

Section 9. Where there are two or more mines in any one locality, and where a crisis exists, due to the fact of mines closing down, it shall be the duty of the members to share their work with the members out of employment. Any member or members found guilty of discriminating against any member or members under question shall be fined Five Dollars ($5.00).

Section 10. When any member of the United Mine workers is suspended or discharged, it shall be the duty of the Mine Committee to immediately investigate the case, and if the member discharged is not guilty of an offense justifying the same, the grievance shall immediately be reported to the Sub-District President in writing under the seal of the Local, and if, upon investiga-

tion, the report of the Local Committee is found correct, the Sub-District President shall immediately insist upon the re-instatement of the suspended or discharged member.

Section 11. Any member or members giving any testimony, or giving any statement in regard to any accident or death case that has occurred in or around a mine, except before a coronor's jury, or as a witness in a damage suit, shall be fined Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) and suspended for six months.

Section 12. Any member or members failing to participate in parades on April 1st or Labor Day shall be fined in accordance with any Local ruling.

Section 13. The officers elected for the term expiring in the year 1911 shall be elected for a term of twelve months.

Section 14. All Sub-District officers shall give an itemized account of all expenses at the end of each month. Said account shall be open for the purpose of inspection by the Auditors or any interested member. Blanks for the purpose shall be furnished by the Sub-District Secretary.

Section 15. Any member of the U. M. W. of A. accepting a position as claim agent for any casualty or insurance company, shall be expelled from membership.

Burial Services.

The following burial service was adopted to be used at funerals of deceased Brothers of U. M. W. of A.:

We are assembled here today to pay a last sad tribute of love to our departed friend and Brother .....He was born

on the ..... day of ..... 19..
He leaves .....his wife;.....
his sons; ..... his daughters. He
came to this country in the year..... and
took up his abode with his family in the city
of ..... He was a miner
by occupation, and he was in the employ of
the ..... Company up to the
time of his death, and he was a member of
Local Union No..... United Mine Work-
ers of America.

Brother Workmen, this solemn occasion brings us here today. The cradle, the grave, speak forcibly to us of our mortality that we may speak with the Psalmist Lord: What is man that Thou art mindful of him, and that the son of man that Thou visits him, for man that is born of woman is full of trouble and sorrows. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. Our years of labor is brought to an end. Our dust shall return to the dust as it was, and our spirit to the God who gave it.

Again, Brother Workmen, we are reminded that we, too, are but mortal spirit, and will soon break the tenements of clay and soar to the flowery fields of the sweet hereafter; and it behooves each one of us here today to emulate our conduct that which will bring about a closer friendship, one that is true to God and Man.

All our beautiful surroundings tell us of His greatness and His goodness, of the universe of which we are children of His creation.

But why should we be sad and mournful

when God can give us consolation while living here on earth for His promise is that we shall meet again in the realms above, for the words of God teach us that we shall live again after death.

Yet, again, we are sad and mournful for those lips which once gave us utterance of love and fraternal kindness are forever closed, never more to be opened in this world.

And now, our dear Brother Workman, we pay the last sad rite and tribute of respect, the last one that we can pay you in this world, by placing these evergreens as a token of respect, that thy memory shall be with us always, though thou hast paid the debt and hast gone to the realms above.

And now, to the family and friends of this, our deceased Brother, we tender our heartfelt sympathy in this, their sad hour of affliction and bereavement, and bid them look to God for His tender mercies, for He alone can give them consolation.

And now, Fellow Workmen, we bid thee a tender and loving farewell!

LET US PRAY.

And now, may Grace, Mercy and Peace from God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest and abide with you all now and forever more. Amen.

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